

SECRET

SAPC-26581

Copy 2 of 5

18 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Comptroller's Signature on AQUATONE Contracts

1. Some days ago you expressed the view that AQUATONE contracts requiring the Director's signature should, before presentation to him, carry the signature of the Agency Comptroller or of an individual designated by the Comptroller but not a member of the AQUATONE Staff. At present contract documents are signed by the Project Comptroller, the Project Contracting Officer, a representative of the General Counsel, and myself.

2. This matter was taken up with the Agency Comptroller who has expressed his views in a memorandum to me, copy of which is attached.

3. I would especially emphasize the point referred to by the Comptroller in paragraph 3 of his memorandum. I feel that an argument could be made that the documents in question carry the signature of the Agency's Director of Logistics in place of the Project Contracting Officer and that on other cases recommended actions might be required to have the concurrence of the Chiefs of other Agency components. In practice, security and compartmentation have been served by the delegation of this function to representatives of the several offices assigned to the Project. This present pattern has also permitted much faster action than would otherwise have been the case. In the specific area of finance, I am confident that the Project Comptroller's certification is in all cases completely supportable by appropriate documentation and is most conservatively given. A review of the records by the Agency Auditor-in-Chief confirmed this belief.

4. I recommend strongly against any change in the present arrangements.

(sgd) Richard M. Bissell, Jr.

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

Attachment:

Cy 1 SAPC-26129

SA/PD/DCI:RMB: ☐

1-Addressee

✓ 2-SA/PD/DCI AQUATONE Chrono

3-Project Dir of Admin

4-Project Comptroller

5-AQUA Approved For Release 2002/08/20 : CIA-RDP75B00514R000200020002-1

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SAPG - 26129 ✓
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7 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Project AQUATONE

SUBJECT: Assignment of [] as Project AQUATONE Comptroller 25X1

25X1
1. I understand a question has been raised concerning whether or not contracts and other financial documents pertaining to Project AQUATONE should be signed by myself or a representative attached to my immediate office. In May 1955 subject individual was recommended by me as an official representative of the Comptroller's Office capable of handling the financial and related functions of Project AQUATONE on my behalf. After receipt of your concurrence an appropriate delegation of authority was issued and circulated under date of 12 May 1955 notifying appropriate officials in the Agency that the Comptroller functions for Project AQUATONE would be handled on behalf of the undersigned by [] who had been appointed Certifying Officer and appropriately bonded.

25X1
2. As I am sure you are aware, the certifications made by a Comptroller type employee must be factual and supportable with books of record and other documentation containing precise data and calculable figures. At the time of subject's appointment, the volume of work in Project AQUATONE had reached the point where I personally could no longer handle the details of the Project functions. My signature on any figures at this point emanating from Project AQUATONE would be affixed upon reliance ^{on} the abilities of [] and other personnel assigned by me to your Staff.

3. The DD/S, Office of Personnel, Logistics Office, and Security Office likewise recommended specialists to you to support AQUATONE as a separate echelon, for the most part, from the rest of the Agency to enhance security, and furnish mobility for the undertaking which we all felt was and continues to be a paramount importance.

[]
E. R. SAUNDERS
Comptroller

NRO
25X1